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Letter dated 25 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the texts of the statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the adoption of the act on the protection of military grave sites by the Parliament of the Republic of Estonia (see annex I) and the decision of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the statement by the State Duma of the Russian Federation in connection with the adoption of the act on the protection of military grave sites by the Parliament of the Republic of Estonia (see annex II) and to request that you issue and circulate the statement and the decision as documents of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly under agenda item 44.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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Annex I to the letter dated 25 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the State Duma in connection with the adoption of the act on the protection of military grave sites by the Parliament of the Republic of Estonia

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation confirms its position set forth in the statement of 15 November 2006 on manifestations of neo-Nazi and revanchist sentiments in Estonia and firmly condemns the adoption by the Estonian Parliament of the act on the protection of military grave sites. That act, aimed at eradicating the memory of the victims in the struggle against fascism, bears witness to the intention of the Estonian authorities, despite the will of the States in the anti-Hitler coalition, to continue their course of glorifying Nazism and justifying its ideology.

In the current situation, the deputies to the State Duma consider it necessary to declare the impossibility of further contacts with the representatives of the political forces in Estonia that initiated the consideration and adoption of the aforementioned act. The deputies to the State Duma also address an appeal to Mr. V. V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and to the Government of the Russian Federation to consider the question of future Russian-Estonian cooperation in the light of the manner in which Estonian authorities carry out the provisions of the aforementioned act and also bearing in mind Federal Act No. 281-F3 of 30 December 2006 on special economic measures. In the event that the communal military graves are destroyed in Estonia, the Government of the Russian Federation must, in the view of the deputies to the State Duma, take steps to re-inter in the Russian Federation the remains of those who fell in the fight against fascism. The State Duma supports the initiatives taken by the public in the Russian Federation and Estonia to preserve the memorials to the soldier-liberators in the Republic of Estonia.

The State Duma views as unacceptable the tendency in world public opinion to relax its awareness of the danger of a rebirth of Nazi ideology and renews its call to European parliaments and international organizations to make a principled assessment of the actions of the Estonian authorities.

Moscow, 17 January 2007

Annex II to the letter dated 25 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Decision of the State Duma on the statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the adoption of the act on the protection of military grave sites by the Parliament of the Republic of Estonia

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation *decides*:

1. To adopt the statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the adoption of the act on the protection of military grave sites by the Parliament of the Republic of Estonia;

2. To send the present decision and the aforementioned statement to Mr. V. V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation; the Government of the Russian Federation; the United Nations; the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; the European Parliament; and the Parliament of the Republic of Estonia;

3. To send the present decision and the aforementioned statement to the Parliamentary Gazette for official publication;

4. The present decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

(*Signed*) B. V. **Gryzlov**
Chairman of the State Duma of the
Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Moscow, 17 January 2007